

**[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Romford].**

**Contributors**

Romford (London, England). Municipal Borough.

**Publication/Creation**

[1955]

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/en6utdf6>

**License and attribution**

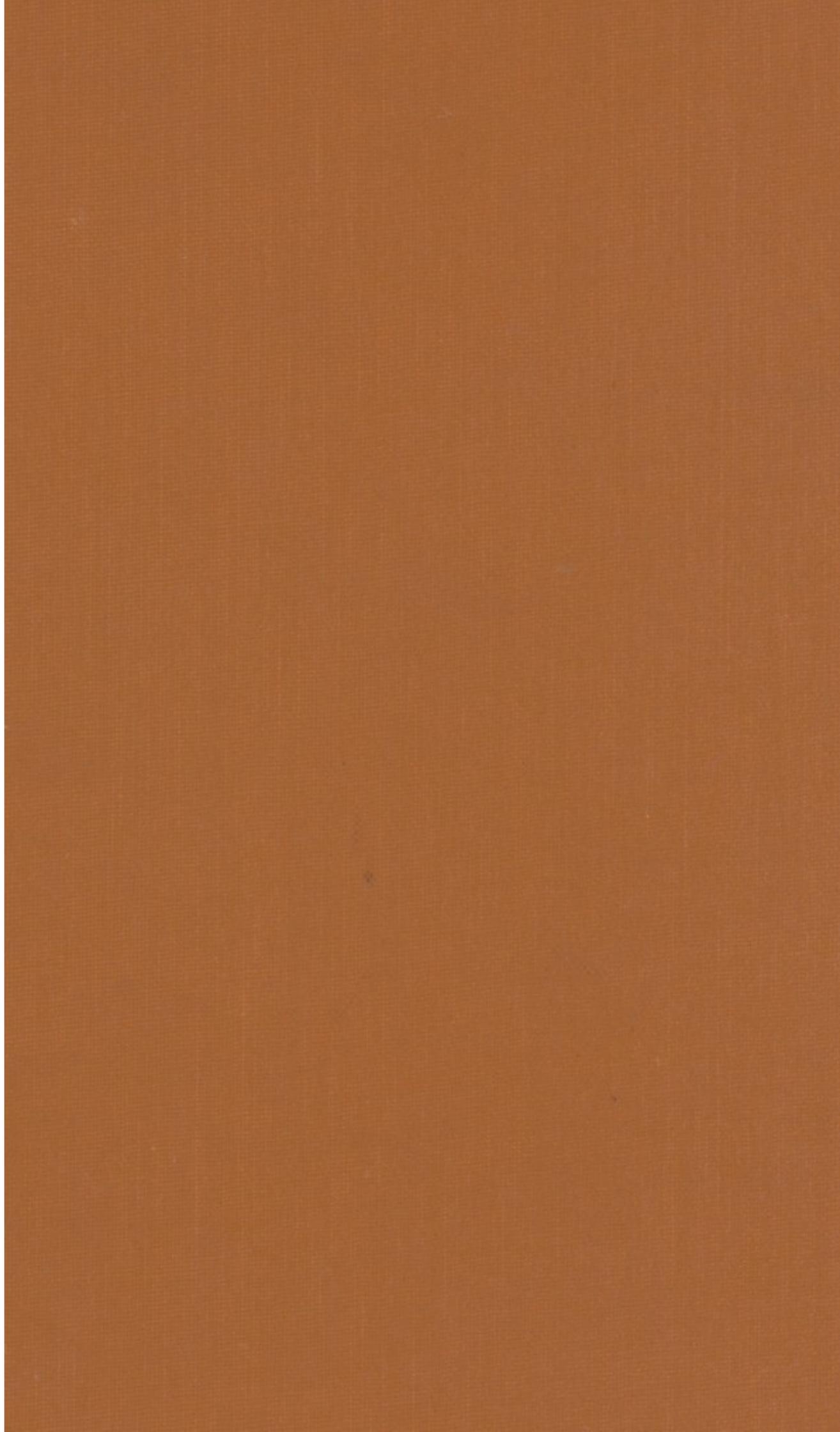
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

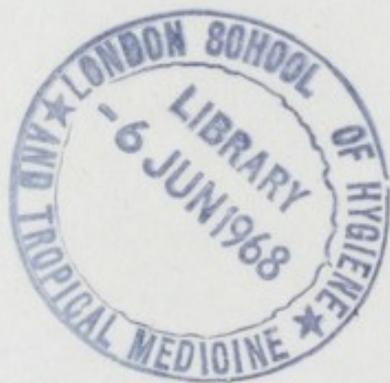
Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.

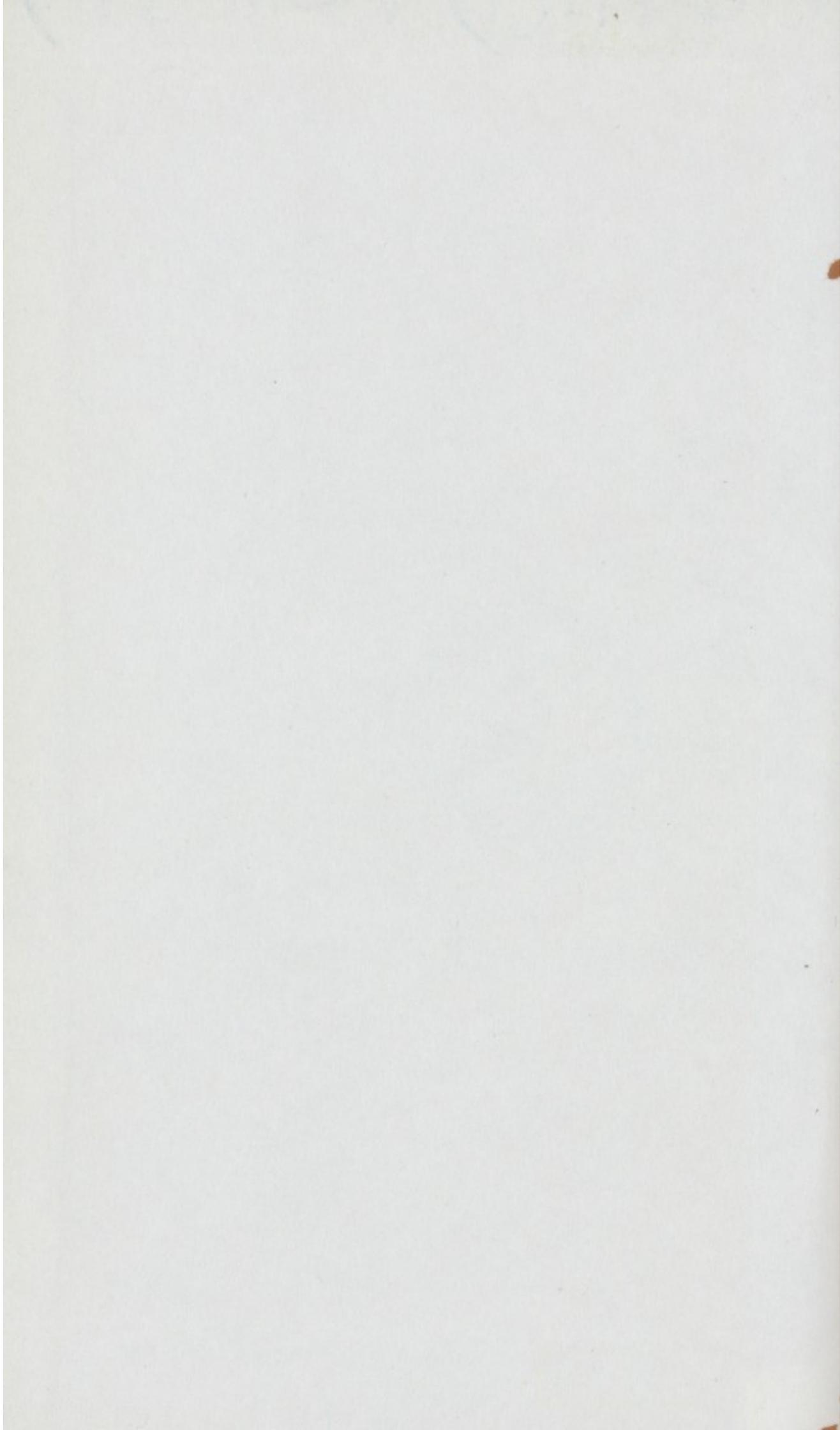


Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



Journal Rebind Co. Ltd.  
Unit 4, Pier Wharf,  
Grays, Essex.





AC 441102 *Library* ROMFORD  
**BOROUGH OF ROMFORD**

ROM 29

HEALTH  
A - 3 JAN 56  
C.R. 17



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

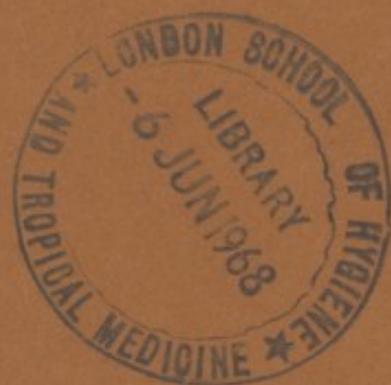
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1954

---

JAMES B. SAMSON, M.D., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

67971



# BOROUGH OF ROMFORD



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1954

---

JAMES B. SAMSON, M.D., D.P.H..  
Medical Officer of Health

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1917

# BOROUGH OF ROMFORD

---

## MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(as at 31st December, 1954)

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR:

Alderman A. McGonagle, J.P.

DEPUTY MAYOR:

Alderman Mrs. L. A. Irons, J.P.

ALDERMEN:

Alderman C. H. Barney, A.S.A.A.	Alderman G. Roberts, J.P.
Alderman H. A. Beck	Alderman L. S. Webb
Alderman T. W. Bradley	Alderman R. Yeal, M.B.E.
Alderman S. V. Ellmore, J.P.	

COUNCILLORS:

Councillor T. C. Bell	Councillor A. C. Latham
Councillor P. F. Broadhead, D.S.C.	Councillor W. F. Long
Councillor S. C. Brown	Councillor W. R. Pike
Councillor A. M. Cannon	Councillor D. Raper
Councillor F. G. Carrick	Councillor P. D. Ridley, M.A. (Cantab.)
Councillor C. Charlton	Councillor M. J. Riordan
Councillor Mrs. M. Clark-Lewis	Councillor G. A. Roberts
Councillor E. T. Clough	Councillor Mrs. O. M. J. Roberts, J.P.
Councillor F. J. Coffin	Councillor M. Sharp
Councillor L. F. P. Eley	Councillor P. J. Smyth
Councillor F. A. Fisher	Councillor H. W. Talbot
Councillor W. S. Gardner	Councillor W. A. White
Councillor W. J. Hawkins, B.A. (Com.)	Councillor F. W. Wright
Councillor E. H. Jarvis	

# BOROUGH OF ROMFORD

---

## **PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND HEALTH COMMITTEE**

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR:

Alderman A. McGonagle, J.P. (ex-officio member)

CHAIRMAN:

Councillor W. S. Gardner

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Councillor W. R. Pike

Alderman S. V. Ellmore, J.P.

Councillor D. Raper

Alderman L. S. Webb

Councillor P. J. Smyth

Councillor Mrs. M. Clark-Lewis

Councillor F. W. Wright

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Public Health Department

(As at 31st December, 1954)

#### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. B. Samson, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

#### ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS

- (a) Mrs. F. M. E. Buchanan, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.  
(Commenced duties 26th July.)
- (b) J. J. Duffy, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
- (c) R. C. Greenberg, M.B., B.S., C.P.H.
- (d) Mrs. E. M. Haga, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

#### DENTAL OFFICERS

- (a) Miss M. L. Ell, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.). (Commenced duties 1st June.)
- (b) Mrs. D. Shirlaw, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Edin.).
- (c) S. F. Mitchell, L.D.S. (Part-time).

#### SANITARY INSPECTORS

- (a) H. C. Boswell (A.B.). (Senior Sanitary Inspector).
- (b) M. J. Dove (A.B.).
- (c) G. D. John (A.B.). (Commenced duties 1st October).
- (d) T. E. R. Jones (A.B.).
- (e) G. F. Hobson (A.B.).
- (f) W. Hodson (A.B.).
  - A. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination Board.
  - B. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

#### SHOPS INSPECTOR

S. F. Titterton, Dip. Shops' Acts Admin. (Commenced duties 15th February.)

#### HEALTH VISITORS

*Superintendent*: Miss F. K. Wells (A.B.D.).

- (a) Miss B. C. Blackley (A.B.D.E.G.).
- (b) Miss O. Clements (A.B.D.F.G.).
- (c) Miss P. F. Cullis (A.B.D.G.). (Commenced duties 1st September).
- (d) Mrs. G. E. Engall (A.B.D.F.G.).
- (e) Mrs. E. M. H. Geary (A.C.D.G.).
- (f) Miss D. I. A. Hall (A.B.D.G.).

- (g) Miss M. Hill (A.B.D.G.).
- (h) Miss F. Lambert (A.C.D.G.).
- (i) Mrs. P. O. McMillan (A.C.D.F.G.). (Commenced duties 22nd February).
- (j) Mrs. M. K. Pressey (A.B.D.G.). (Commenced duties 22nd November).
- (k) Mrs. L. Thompson (A.B.D.G.). (Commenced duties 8th November).
- (l) Miss A. M. Tidd (A.C.D.F.G.).
- (m) Mrs. G. Wallach (A.C.D.E.G.).

#### TUBERCULOSIS VISITOR

- (a) Mrs. B. Alder (A.B.).
- (b) Miss D. N. Chilton (A.C.E.). Commenced duties 22nd March).

#### DOMICILIARY MIDWIVES

- (a) Miss I. A. Bassett (B).
- (b) Mrs. J. Dennis (A.B.).
- (c) Miss E. E. Jeenes (A.B.).
- (d) Miss C. M. Kerr (A.B.).
- (e) Miss M. Kitson (A.B.).
- (f) Miss F. L. Law (A.B.).
- (g) Mrs. M. Mylward (B).
- (h) Mrs. E. A. Rooks (B).
- (i) Mrs. G. E. Sexton (A.B.).
- (j) Mrs. M. B. Woodhouse (A.B.).

#### HOME NURSE/MIDWIVES

- (a) Mrs. E. D. Carrington (A.B.), Queen's Certificate of District Nursing. (Commenced duties 9th February.)
- (b) Miss D. D. K. Martin (A.B.).
- (c) Mrs. A. H. Menzies (A.B.).
- (d) Mrs. I. Mobbs (A.B.).

#### HOME NURSES

- (a) Mrs. E. M. Broome (A.).
- (b) Mrs. B. Casey (A.C.).
- (c) Mrs. C. Cook (A.).
- (d) Miss J. Macaulay (A.B.), Queen's Certificate of District Nursing.
- (e) Mrs. A. C. Silcock (A.B.).
- (f) Miss J. D. Silcock (A.B.).
- (g) Mrs. D. I. Towell (A.).
- (h) Mrs. S. A. Wotherspoon (A.).

- A. State Registered Nurse.
- B. State Certified Midwife.
- C. Part 1 S.C.M.
- D. Health Visitor's Certificate.
- E. Certificate of Tuberculosis Nursing.
- F. Registered Fever Nurse.
- G. Also holds the appointment of School Nurse.

## DOMESTIC HELP ORGANISER

Mrs. L. Canham.

## DAY NURSERIES—MATRONS

*" St. Moritz "*

Mrs. I. C. Bowyer.

*Collier Row*

Mrs. D. Eveling.

*Rush Green*

Mrs. R. M. O'Halloran.

## DOMICILIARY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Miss J. van der Lande, Dual Dip. Ass. of Occup. Theraps. (Part-time). (Commenced duties 3rd May).

## DENTAL ATTENDANTS

- (a) Mrs. P. D. Goodwin. (Part-time.)
- (b) Mrs. G. E. Taylor. (Commenced duties 19th June.)
- (c) Mrs. M. Warder.

## CLERICAL ASSISTANTS

- (a) E. W. Gowers, Chief Administrative Assistant.
- (b) C. G. Humberston, Senior Administrative Assistant.
- (c) S. J. Adams, Administrative Assistant.
- (d) W. Norris, Administrative Assistant.
- (e) Miss M. E. Firmin.
- (f) Mrs. B. Mather.
- (g) Mrs. M. Barnard.
- (h) Mrs. K. E. Blome.
- (i) Mrs. F. Butt. (Commenced duties 15th November.)
- (j) Mrs. D. E. Cast. (Commenced duties 14th January.)
- (k) Mrs. S. Corner.
- (l) Mrs. I. M. Gray.
- (m) Miss R. Harvey.
- (n) Mrs. M. E. Riley.
- (o) Miss J. V. Saggars.
- (p) Miss V. C. Warren.

## HAROLD HILL HEALTH CENTRE

*Nursing Staff*

Miss S. Barlow, S.R.N. (Commenced duties 16th July.)

Miss P. E. Cutts, S.R.N. (Commenced duties 16th July.)

*Clerical Assistants*

Miss M. O. Little. (Commenced duties 1st July.)

Miss R. Markram. (Commenced duties 19th July.)

Miss J. Harrison. (Commenced duties 16th July.)

# BOROUGH OF ROMFORD

To His Worship The Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough  
of Romford.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour, herewith, to present to you, this, my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1954.

This is the Twenty-first Report in the series, since I was appointed your Medical Officer of Health, and it is drawn up in accordance with the requirements of Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and with Circular No. 28/54 of the Ministry of Health, dated 15th December, 1954.

The position I hold is that of Medical Officer of Health for the Borough, and Area Medical Officer for the Romford Area of the Essex County Council. So far as this Report is concerned, it deals with my duties in both capacities.

My thanks are again gratefully tendered to all members of the Borough Council, and the Health Area Sub-Committee; to the members of my staff; and to my fellow officials for all the assistance they have rendered to me, in the compilation of this report, or in dealing with routine matters, and in the launching of new schemes.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES B. SAMSON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL, ROMFORD.

May, 1955.

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1954

**Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area**

Area (in acres) ... ..	9,342
Population: Census (1951), 88,002; Mid. 1954 (Estd.) ...	105,900
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1954) ... ..	29,282
Rateable Value (end of 1954) ... ..	£774,444
Product of Penny Rate (end of 1954) ... ..	£2,956

**Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year**

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births: Legitimate ... ..	1,857	984	873
illegitimate ... ..	73	30	43
Birth Rate: 15·3 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.			
Still Births: Legitimate ... ..	39	22	17
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births): 19·8.			
Deaths ... ..	682	359	323
Death Rate: 9·1 per 1,000 estimated resident population.			
		Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
Deaths from Puerperal causes ... ..		0·0	
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..		20·7	
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..		21·0	
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..		13·8	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..		145	
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..		—	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..		—	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..		1	

TABLE 1

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,  
MATERNAL MORTALITY, and CASE-RATES for certain Infectious  
Diseases in the year 1954.

England and Wales, London, 160 County Boroughs and  
Great Towns, and 160 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION		DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION									RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Influenza	Small-pox	Acute Polio- myelitis and Polioencephal- itis	Pneumonia	Diarrhoea and Enteri- tis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales ... ..	15.2	0.36	11.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.8	25.5
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ... ..	16.8	0.44	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.9	29.2
160 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census) ...	15.4	0.36	11.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.49	0.5	23.8
London ... ..	17.7	0.35	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.4	22.1
ROMFORD ... ..	15.3	0.37	9.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.24	0.5	20.7

The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales is as follows :

Per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births — 0.69

The Maternal Mortality Rate for Romford is as follows :

Per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births — 0.00

TABLE 2.

Causes of Death	All Ages			Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents, after correction for Inward and Outward transfers										
	M.	F.	Total	Under				15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 &
				1	1	2-4	5-14	24	34	44	54	64	74	upwards
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	10	5	15	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	5	3	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Syphilitic disease ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
4. Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Meningococcal infections	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
7. Acute poliomyelitis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	10	7	17	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	5	5	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	25	6	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	11	8	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	..	21	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	6	2	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	35	36	71	..	..	1	1	2	1	4	7	20	20	15
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	4	3	7	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	3
16. Diabetes ..	2	5	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	34	49	83	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	7	17	17	40
18. Coronary disease, angina ..	58	27	85	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	12	17	29	25
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	7	7	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	4	6
20. Other heart disease	36	54	90	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	6	7	24	48
21. Other circulatory disease ..	10	15	25	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	3	8	12
22. Influenza ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
23. Pneumonia ..	15	10	25	4	3	..	1	..	..	..	1	6	3	7
24. Bronchitis ..	21	9	30	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	10	12
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	8	1	9	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	4	1	..
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	6	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	..
27. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea ..	2	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ..	8	3	11	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	2	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ..	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
31. Congenital malformations ..	5	6	11	7	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	32	40	72	26	..	1	3	1	4	2	5	11	7	12
33. Motor vehicle accidents ..	8	2	10	..	1	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	2	2
34. All other accidents	5	8	13	1	1	..	1	1	..	3	1	..	1	4
35. Suicide ..	9	3	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	4	2	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Total ..	358	324	682	40	8	2	13	11	10	29	73	129	156	211

This year the Registrar-General has given his estimate of the mid-year population of Romford as 105,900, which compares with 104,100 for last year, an increase of 1,800.

During 1954, the total number of live births registered was 1930, and the total number of deaths registered was 682. The difference of 1,248 gives the natural increase in the population. As this number falls short of the Registrar-General's estimated increase of 1,800, it follows that the balance of 552 is made up of excess of Immigration over Emigration.

For 1954, we estimate the Birth Rate to be 15.3 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. This figure is obtained by multiplying the Crude Birth Rate of 18.2 by the Comparability Factor of 0.84. For last year, the Rate was 15.8.

The Rate for England and Wales for 1954 is given at 15.2, and for the 160 County Boroughs and Great Towns with populations exceeding 50,000 at the 1951 Census, the Rate is 16.8.

The Death Rate for Romford is estimated at 9.1 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. This figure is obtained by multiplying the Crude Death Rate of 6.4 by the Comparability Factor of 1.42. For last year the Rate for 10.5. The comparable Rate for England and Wales, and for the 160 Great Towns, referred to above are 11.3 and 12.1 respectively.

The chief causes of death in order of frequency were:—

- (1) Diseases of the Heart and Circulation.
- (2) Cancer.
- (3) Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Other Respiratory Diseases.

Other conditions, comparatively speaking, take a minor position.

As there were no maternal deaths the Maternal Mortality Rate, which is the number of Maternal Deaths, due to conditions associated with pregnancy or confinement, per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 0.0. The corresponding Rate for England and Wales is 0.69.

The Infant Mortality Rate, or the Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births is 20.7, a decrease of 10.9 and, incidentally, this is the second lowest recorded rate for the district.

The corresponding figures for England and Wales, and the 160 Great Towns are 25.5 and 29.2 respectively.

## 1.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### (i) Staff

The particulars are set out at the beginning of this report. The Assistant Medical Officers, Dental Staff, Nursing Staff, the Domestic Help Organiser, and also the majority of the Clerical Staff come under the jurisdiction of the Essex County Council, in their capacity as Local Health Authority.

By reason of the establishment of the Health Centre at Harold Hill additions were made to the staff.

### (ii) Laboratory Facilities

For the purpose of the Food and Drugs Act, Dr. J. H. Hamence, F.R.I.C., of the Analytical Laboratory at 20, Eastcheap, London, was appointed Public Analyst for the Borough.

The other laboratory facilities are, as before, and meet requirements.

### (iii) Nursing in the Home

#### (a) GENERAL NURSING.

At the end of the year 8 Home Nurses, and 4 Home Nurse/Midwives were serving in the area. These were employed in general domiciliary nursing, but, in addition, the Home Nurse/Midwives also combined this work with midwifery duties.

Under the provision of Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, arrangements continued for the loan of sick-room equipment, for which no charge is made.

Table 3 sets out the work of the Home Nursing section during the year.

TABLE 3

(1) Number of Visits paid ... ..	23,561
(2) Number of Cases attended ... ..	1,483

#### (b) DOMICILIARY MIDWIVES.

At the end of the year 10 Domiciliary Midwives were employed, and also the 4 Home Nurse/Midwives referred to above.

The following gives a summary of the cases attended by the Domiciliary Midwives, as Midwives, and as Maternity Nurses.

TABLE 4

As Midwives ... ..	893
As Maternity Nurses ... ..	84

Table 5 gives a summary of the " Medical Aid " notices received during the year.

TABLE 5

(1) Where the medical practitioner had arranged to provide the patient with maternity services, under the National Health Service ... ..	7
(2) Others ... ..	95

**(iv) Ante-natal, and Post-natal Clinics**

Five Ante-natal sessions have been held each week, and 3 Post-natal sessions are held per month. As, and when necessary, mothers have been referred to the Consultative Clinic at Oldchurch Hospital.

During the year, 492 individual expectant mothers attended the ante-natal clinics.

In all, 255 ante-natal sessions were held. The total number of attendances of the 492 ante-natal mothers, mentioned above, was 2,664, giving an average of 5·4 attendances per patient. The average number attending at each session was 10·4. Twenty-four post-natal sessions were held, and 244 attendances were recorded. The average number attending at each session was 10·1.

**(v) Child Welfare Clinics**

Twelve child welfare sessions have been held each week.

Altogether, there were 601 sessions, and the following table gives a summary of the attendances.

TABLE 6

Individual children attending	...	...	...	...	...	3,916
Children attending for the first time	...	...	...	...	...	1,381
Medical consultations	...	...	...	...	...	5,182
Attendances of children under one year of age	...	...	...	...	...	16,638
Attendances of children between the ages of one and five years	...	...	...	...	...	6,263
Average attendances per session	...	...	...	...	...	38·1

**(vi) Health Visitors**

At the end of the year there were 13 Health Visitors on the staff.

Table 7 relates to Home Visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year.

TABLE 7

(a) To Expectant Mothers:—					
First visits	...	...	...	...	205
Total visits	...	...	...	...	241
(b) To Children under one year of age:—					
First visits	...	...	...	...	2,114
Total visits	...	...	...	...	7,750
(c) To Children between the ages of one and five years:—					
Total visits	...	...	...	...	12,098

**(vii) The Care of Premature Infants**

The same facilities exist, and have proved satisfactory.

**(viii) Inspection of Nursing Homes**

The number of Nursing Homes remains the same, viz., four. These were inspected quarterly, on behalf of the County Council and, on each occasion, were found to be satisfactory.

(ix) **Domestic Helps.**

The service of domestic helps has continued to meet the needs of the area. During the year 147 part-time and casual helps were employed, and these gave assistance in 639 individual cases.

Tuberculous patients have been helped by those who volunteer for this service. These latter have a special medical examination, prior to taking up duties, and they receive detailed instructions on precautionary measures.

(x) **Day Nurseries**

The average daily attendance for the year at each Nursery was as follows:—

TABLE 8

“ St. Moritz ” Nursery ...	32
Collier Row Nursery ...	21
Rush Green Nursery ...	† 16

The “ St. Moritz ” Nursery and the Collier Row Nursery are scheduled to take 40 children each, and the Rush Green Nursery 50.

(xi) **Dental Service**

During the year, we were able to acquire the services of another full-time Dental Officer, and Dental Attendant. Although appointed primarily for duties in connection with the School Health Service, nevertheless, one session per week is devoted to expectant and nursing mothers, and children under school age.

The following gives particulars of the service:—

TABLE 9

## (a) Numbers provided with Dental care:—

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	65	64	56	21
Children under Five ...	223	205	173	120

## (b) Forms of Dental Treatment provided:—

	Extractions	Anaesthetics		Fillings.	Scalings or Scalings and Gum Treatment	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Dressings	Radio-graphs	Dentures provided	
		Local	General						Complete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	52	22	16	155	28	3	40	—	—	—
Children under five	130	5	95	182	—	77	80	—	—	—

(xii) **Welfare Foods**

When the local Food Office closed at the end of June, the Ministry of Health transferred the responsibility for the distribution of Welfare Foods to the Local Health Authorities, and arrangements were accordingly made in the district for the continuance of this service. This

necessitated the provision of extra storage accommodation, and arrangements for redistribution. This service is progressing satisfactorily.

(xiii) **Harold Hill Health Centre**

The building of this Health Centre was completed at the beginning of July, and commenced to function about the middle of that month.

This Health Centre, the first of its type in Essex, and, indeed, amongst the first few in the Country, consists of two sections, one for the use of the Local Authority for Health Services purposes, and one for the use of General Medical and Dental services.

The first of the sections mentioned above has accommodation for Ante-natal and Child Welfare work, and a Minor Ailments Room for work in connection with the School Health Service. Facilities are also available for School Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Ophthalmic examinations, and Speech therapy. The other section has four consultation rooms for the use of nine General Practitioners, who occupy these according to a pre-arranged scheme. There is also a room for minor operations, and upstairs a surgery for general Dentistry.

The remainder of the building is given up to Waiting Rooms, Staff Rooms, Office accommodation, Food Storage, and Caretaker's Flat. The section devoted to the General Practitioners is rented by them, and this includes furniture, and equipment, also the services of Nurses and Secretarial Staff.

Although each of the two sections mentioned above functions in its own way, the two services, preventive and curative have an admirable opportunity of intermingling, and it is hoped thereby that this will strengthen the link, and provide something of great advantage to the ultimate benefit of the public.

## 2.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(i) **Water**

Mr. H. G. Ramsay, Chief Engineer of the South Essex Waterworks Company, has kindly given me the following report with regard to the water supply to the district:—

“(a) There have been no new extensions of public water supply during the year 1954, other than for the supply to permanent housing sites.

(b) Lengths of mains laid, in yards:—

	3"	4"	6"
L.C.C. Harold Hill Estate ...	61	—	159
Romford Area ... ..	1,230	3,091	555
Total	1,291	3,091	714

(c) The water supply of the area, and of its several parts, has been satisfactory both as to quality and quantity.

(d) Bacteriological and Chemical examinations are made of the raw water, of the water in its various stages of treatment, of

the water supplied from the Company's wells, and of the water going into supply.

Analyses are also made of samples obtained from consumers' taps in various parts of the Company's district all proved to be satisfactory.

A total of over 3,800 Chemical, Bacteriological, and Biological examinations have been made.

(e) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

(f) No contamination has arisen, therefore no action has been necessary."

In addition to the analyses carried out by the Waterworks Company, samples have also been taken from consumers' taps by the Sanitary Inspectors and sent for Bacteriological analyses once per month, and Chemical analyses one per six months, and the results have confirmed the findings of the Company.

(ii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area**

The Senior Sanitary Inspector has given me the undermentioned report, as required by Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and also the particulars which follow:—

During the year, 1,624 complaints were received, and investigated.

TABLE 10

NATURE AND NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Accumulations and Refuse Deposits	...	...	...	47
Bakehouses	...	...	...	24
Butchers' Shops and Stalls, etc.	...	...	...	169
Cesspools	...	...	...	119
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	20
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	78
Drains, relaid or altered	...	...	...	131
Drainage—obstructed or defective	...	...	...	791
Drains Tested	...	...	...	94
Disinfections and disinfestations	...	...	...	20
Dustbins	...	...	...	91
Establishments for Massage and Special treatment	...	...	...	17
Factories Act (Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	137
Factories Act (Non-mechanical)	...	...	...	68
Factories Act (Outworkers Premises)	...	...	...	205
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	353
Food Hawkers	...	...	...	47
Food Inspection	...	...	...	418
Food Sampling—Formal	...	...	...	81
Food Sampling—Informal	...	...	...	156
Food Shops	...	...	...	188
Housing Acts	...	...	...	2,336
Ice Cream	...	...	...	192
Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act 1952	...	...	...	52
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	1,218
Insects and Pests	...	...	...	10
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	14

Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	152
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	103
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	140
Nuisances, Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	1,867
Old Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	24
Pet Animals Act 1951	...	...	...	...	...	21
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	33
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949	...	...	...	...	...	2,841
Public Baths	...	...	...	...	...	15
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	50
Rag Flock Act	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sale of Horseflesh	...	...	...	...	...	14
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	20
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	2,495
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	712
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	28
Streams and Ponds	...	...	...	...	...	79
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	...	161
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	61
Water closets	...	...	...	...	...	14
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	31
Informal Notices (number served)	...	...	...	...	...	870
Statutory Notices (number served)	...	...	...	...	...	129

As a result of the service of Notices, the necessary works were completed by the owners or occupiers in all cases except 91, the works for which were still in hand at the end of the year.

(iii) **Factories Act, 1937 and 1948**

A summary of the statistics, as required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, is given below:—

TABLE 11

1. Inspections Premises.		Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i)	Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	68	10	—
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	246	137	4	—
(iii)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-Workers premises)	41	53	1	—
Total		301	258	15	—

## 2. Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	No. of Cases in which defects were found				No. of Cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ... ..	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffect. drain. of floors ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	10	10	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	15	15	—	1	—

## 3. Outwork.

Nature of Work	No. of Out-Workers in August List	No. of Cases of default in sending List	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply Lists	No. of Instances of Work in Un-wholesome Premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—						
Making, etc. ... ..	38	—	—	—	—	—
Box Making ... ..	14	1	1	—	—	—
Total ... ..	52	1	1	—	—	—

During the year 205 inspections were made of Outworkers' premises.

## (iv) Caravan Sites.

There are 6 licensed caravan sites, one of which is controlled by the Council.

Altogether, there are 231 caravans on those sites. The sites are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

## (v) Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors and Rodent Operative carried out 2,841 inspections, or re-inspections to premises infested by rats and mice.

Further maintenance treatment, in respect of rat disinfection to sewers was undertaken on two occasions, and a total of 302 manholes were treated.

(vi) **Infestation.**

The facilities for disinfection, and the destruction, when necessary, of clothing and bedding remain as before.

(vii) **Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

Fourteen persons are licensed to keep Pet Shops. Frequent inspections continue to be carried out.

**3.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**(i) **Milk Supply.**

At the end of the year, 45 persons were registered as Retailers or Distributors. Of these 13 were licensed to retail Tuberculin-Tested Milk, 18 were licensed to retail Pasteurised Milk, and 40 were licensed to retail Sterilised Milk.

Two of the Retailers have their own Pasteurising plants, which are kept under the supervision of the department.

During the year, 152 samples of milk were taken, and only 2 failed to pass the prescribed test.

(ii) **Ice Cream.**

All Traders and Manufacturers have to be registered. There were at the end of the year 4 manufacturers, and 199 vendors on the register.

During the year, 79 samples were taken for Bacteriological examination. Only 2 proved unsatisfactory. Twenty-five samples of ice-lollies were taken, and only 1 proved unsatisfactory.

(iii) **Meat.**

At the end of July the Ministry of Food de-requisitioned the Regional Slaughterhouse in Oldchurch Road. There are now 3 licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough, and one of them is also licensed for the slaughter of horses.

Altogether, 26,923 animals were slaughtered for human consumption. In addition, 157 horses were slaughtered for human consumption.

The Sanitary Inspectors have again paid the usual visits to Slaughterhouses, Meat Depôts, Butchers' Shops, Stalls, etc.

Table 12 sets out the particulars of the carcasses inspected, and condemned.

TABLE 12  
CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED  
1954

	Cattle except Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	TOTAL
Number killed (if known)	3,170	1,310	1,233	12,455	8,755	157	27,080
Number inspected	3,170	1,310	1,233	12,455	8,755	157	27,080
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</b>							
Whole carcasses condemned	7	7	15	6	15	9	59
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	870	543	3	952	1,309	2	3,679
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	27%	42%	1.5%	7%	15%	7%	13.8%
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b>							
Whole carases condemned	12	10	1	—	2	—	25
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	165	310	1	—	134	—	610
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.5%	24%	.16%	—	1.5%	—	2.3%

**(iv) Food Products in General.**

In addition to the premises used for Milk, Ice Cream, and Meat, referred to above, the following food premises are registered under the Romford Urban District Council Act, 1931, and are subject to the Clean Food Byelaws.

Bakers ... ..	32	Cafes ... ..	60
Confectioners ...	61	Fishmongers ...	30
Greengrocers ...	45	Grocers ... ..	116
Miscellaneous ...	11	Hawkers ... ..	29

There are also 45 food stalls situated in the Market Place on three days of the week.

All the above are subject to regular inspections. During the year, 873 such inspections were made. The majority of the food shops now have constant hot water provided.

**(v) Unsound Food.**

During the year, 418 visits were made to food premises, mainly on request, for the purpose of dealing with unsound food, and a total quantity of 6 tons, 13 cwts. 76 lbs. of food was surrendered as unfit for human consumption. Where possible all unsound food is disposed of for animal feeding; if this is not possible it is dealt with by the Cleansing Department.

**(vi) The Food and Drugs Acts, 1938-1954**

The Romford Borough Council became its own " Food and Drugs " Authority on 1st April.

Since the 1st April 179 samples were submitted for analysis, comprising 46 Formal and 133 Informal samples.

Table 13 sets out the types of food examined. Of the 46 formal samples taken, 7 proved to be not genuine and the Council authorised legal proceedings to be taken against the vendors. One sample of sausages taken formally was found to be slightly deficient in meat content, but the deficiency was not sufficient to warrant prosecution.

Of the informal samples taken the following articles were reported upon adversely:—

A sample of dried milk taken on request from an ice cream manufacturer was found to have a very high acid content and on being informed of the analyst's findings, the manufacturer surrendered the remainder of the consignment, 192 lbs., which was disposed of for animal feeding.

One ice lolly was found to contain an excess of lead, which was introduced from the soldered joints of the moulds. This has been remedied.

Two samples of sausages were found to contain preservatives which were not declared at the time of purchase. As the amount of preservative came within the prescribed standard, the matter of failing to indicate that the sausages contained preservatives was taken up with the vendors, and a satisfactory explanation was given.

Two samples of " buttered " sweets were reported as not being genuine, in that they did not contain at least 4% butter. Upon

investigation, it was found that the manufacturers had been warned by another Authority and they had altered the labels on the sweet containers so as to read " Butter Flavoured " in order to comply with the Regulations.

### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The following cases under the Food and Drugs Act were taken before the Magistrates Court during the year.

	<i>Offence</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Result</i>
(1)	Sausage containing piece of metal ...	9	Fined £2
(2)	Selling " buttered " rolls containing not butter but margarine ... ..	3	Fined £2 plus £2.2.0 cost.
(3)	Selling " buttered " bread the fat consisting of a mixture of butter and margarine ... ..	3	Fined £2 plus £2.2.0 cost.
(4)	Selling " buttered " bread the fat consisting of a mixture of butter and margarine ... ..	3	Fined £2 plus £2.2.0 cost.
(5)	Selling " buttered " milk rolls the fat being not butter but margarine ... ..	3	Fined £2 plus £2.2.0 cost.
(6)	Selling " buttered " scones the fat consisting of a mixture of butter and margarine ... ..	3	Fined £2 plus £2.2.0 cost.
(7)	Selling " buttered " buns the fat being not butter but margarine ... ..	3	Fined £2 plus £2.2.0 cost.

### CASES TAKEN UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK, DAIRIES AND ARTIFICIAL CREAM) ACT, 1950

	<i>Offence</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Result</i>
(1)	Using a special designation without being the holder of a licence ... ..	13 (2)	Case dismissed.
(2)	Adding water to milk ... ..	9 (a)	Fined £5 plus £2.2.0 cost.

The defendant in this case lodged an appeal to the County Quarter Sessions.

TABLE 13  
SUMMARY OF SAMPLES TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS  
DURING THE YEAR 1954

Article	Number examined			Result of Analysis	
	Formal	Informal	Total	Genuine	Not Genuine
Almond Essence ..	—	1	1	1	—
Almonds (ground) ..	—	1	1	1	—
Butter .. .. .	—	4	4	4	—
Buttered Confectionery	3	4	7	5	2
Buttered Rolls & Bread	7	—	7	1	6
Cake Mixtures .. ..	—	2	2	2	—
Chicklettes .. ..	—	1	1	1	—
Chocolate (drinking) ..	—	1	1	1	—
Christmas Pudding ..	—	1	1	1	—
Cochineal .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Cocoa .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Coffee .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Coffee & Chicory Essence	—	2	2	2	—
Cooking Fat .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Cordials .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Corn Flour .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Currants .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Curry Powder .. ..	—	1	1	1	—
Custard Powder .. ..	—	2	2	2	—
Dripping (Beef) .. ..	—	1	1	1	—
Fat Emulsifier .. ..	—	1	1	1	—
Fish Cakes .. .. .	—	2	2	2	—
Fruit Juice .. .. .	—	2	2	2	—
Fruit Pectin .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Ginger (ground) .. ..	—	2	2	2	—
Horseradish Sauce .. ..	—	1	1	1	—
Ice Cream .. .. .	3	—	3	3	—
Ice Lollies .. .. .	—	9	9	8	1
Ice Lolly Bags .. ..	—	1	1	1	—
Jams .. .. .	—	2	2	2	—
Jellies .. .. .	—	2	2	2	—
Lard .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Lobster Paste .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Luncheon Meat .. ..	—	1	1	1	—
Margarine .. .. .	—	7	7	7	—
Meat Paste .. .. .	—	2	2	2	—
Milk .. .. .	15	1	16	15	1
Milk Powder .. .. .	—	1	1	—	1
Mint .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Mustard .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Nutmeg (ground) .. ..	—	1	1	1	—
Oranges .. .. .	3	—	3	3	—
Pepper .. .. .	—	3	3	3	—
Pudding Mixture .. ..	—	1	1	1	—
Raisins .. .. .	—	2	2	2	—
Rennet Essence .. ..	—	1	1	1	—
Rum .. .. .	4	—	4	4	—
Salad Cream .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Sauces .. .. .	—	3	3	3	—
Sausages (beef) .. ..	7	23	30	28	2
Sausages (pork) .. ..	1	17	18	17	1
Self Raising Flour .. ..	—	2	2	2	—
Soup Powder .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Soups (prepared) .. ..	—	3	3	3	—
Stewed Steak .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Suet, Shredded & Flaked	—	2	2	2	—
Tapioca .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Tea Cakes .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Tomato Ketchup .. ..	—	2	2	2	—
Vinegar .. .. .	—	1	1	1	—
Whiskey .. .. .	3	—	3	3	—
Totals .. .. .	46	133	179	165	14

(vii) **Shops Act, 1950.**

(a) In February of this year the Council appointed a full-time Shops Inspector to work under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Up to date 558 shops have been inspected, and recorded on the Register. Altogether, 2,495 inspections and observations have been made for various purposes under the Act.

During these inspections the following contraventions were noted:—

Failure to exhibit prescribed Notices ... ..	844
Failure to keep records ... ..	115
Conditions of employment ... ..	95
Sanitary accommodation ... ..	73
Washing facilities ... ..	10
Other matters ... ..	22

In order to draw the attention of the occupiers to these contraventions 311 informal notices were served, and 203 verbal cautions were given, as a result, the majority of the contraventions were rectified by the end of the year, and others were receiving attention.

(b) **EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES.**

On being satisfied that alternative arrangements were reasonably available and satisfactory, the Council have issued three Certificates, under Section 38 (6) of the Act, exempting the occupiers of certain shops from providing additional sanitary accommodation and washing facilities.

(c) **ORDERS—EARLY CLOSING.**

(i) At the request of the majority of Hairdressers within the district the Romford, Hornchurch and Upminster (Hairdressers) Order 1923 was revoked, as far as it applied to Romford, and the local hairdressers may now select their own early closing day.

(ii) On being satisfied that the majority of the Motor Traders in the district requested an exemption, the Council made an Order under Section 1 (4) of the Act exempting the sale of Motors and Motor Cycles from the provisions of Section 1 of the Act relating to early closing days.

(d) **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.**

The Council authorised the following cases to be taken before the Magistrates' Court in respect of contraventions under the Shops Act, 1950.

	<i>Offence</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Result</i>
(1)	Sunday Trading ... ..	47	Fined £1
(2)	Sunday Trading ... ..	47	Fined £1
(3)	Sunday Trading ... ..	47	Absolute Discharge on payment of 4/- costs.
(4)	Failing to give assistant half-holiday	17	Fined £1
(5)	Failing to give assistant half-holiday	17	Fined £1
(6)	Failing to keep records of Sunday employment ... ..	22 (3)	Fined £2
(7)	Failing to keep records of hours worked by Young Persons ... ..	32 (1)	Fined £2
(8)	Failing to allow a Young Person proper intervals of rest ... ..	31	Fined £1

## 4.—HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1954.

TABLE 14

Number of houses erected during the year:—

(1) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	309
(2) By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	560

**1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	3,255
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	5,584
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) (above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	219
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	870

**2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices**

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of Informal action by the local authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	779
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.**

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—						
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	3
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—						
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	125
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	92
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	28

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... ..	3
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	5
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit	1

#### 4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ...	73
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	142
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	565
(b) Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	18
(c) (1) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	7
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	26
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	Nil

### 5. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### (i) Notifiable Diseases

As in the past, I have not recorded those notifications, where, after investigation, or further observation, the diagnosis has been changed. Where, however, the altered diagnosis has proved to be another type of notifiable infection, this has been appropriately recorded. The necessary amendments have been forwarded at the end of each quarter to the Registrar-General, in accordance with instructions.

#### (a) Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis

This year has been a quiet one, so far as Poliomyelitis has been concerned. Why this has been so, we do not know. It has been suggested that the low incidence throughout the Country generally may have been due to the lack of real "Summer weather," but I feel that this is not the whole explanation, as very severe epidemics have occurred in America, even during the Winter. We can at present but be thankful that we have been so free this year.

There were in all only 3 patients. Of these, 1 had paralysis of the respiratory system and, unfortunately, died. The other 2 were non-paralytic.

**(b) Acute Infective Hepatitis.**

This condition is still a notifiable one throughout the Eastern Region. Altogether, 62 notifications were received.

**(c) Diphtheria.**

Once more, there were no cases of Diphtheria during the year.

The following statistics relate to the state of Immunisation at the 31st December, 1954. In addition to the initial series of injections, " booster " doses have also been given.

TABLE 15

	<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>5-15 years</i>
Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1954, and who were born between 31st December, 1939, and 31st December, 1954 ... ..	7,506	12,327

**(d) Dysentery.**

One hundred and twenty-one cases of Dysentery were notified. One hundred and one were due to *Shigella Sonnei*, and 20 were unclassified.

**(e) Food Poisoning.**

During the year 7 cases were notified, which proved to be suffering from food poisoning. In addition another 47 proved indefinite.

The following table sets out the details, as required by the Ministry of Health.

TABLE 16

(a) Total Number of Outbreaks ... ..	Nil
(b) Total Number of Cases included in (a) ... ..	—
(c) Number of Single Cases ... ..	54
(d) Number of Deaths ... ..	Nil
(e) (i) Organisms responsible	<i>Salmonella Typi-Murium</i> <i>Unknown</i>
(ii) Outbreaks attributable to (i) ... ..	Nil
(iii) Single cases attributable to (i) ... ..	7
(f) (i) Foods involved	<i>Unknown</i>
(ii) Outbreaks attributable to (i) ... ..	Nil
(iii) Single cases attributable to (i) ... ..	54

**(f) Measles.**

After the large epidemic of last year, there were comparatively few cases in 1954, only 206 being notified. For the most part these occurred in December.

**(g) Scarlet Fever.**

The notifications numbered 156, and the type was again mild.

**(h) Smallpox.**

Two passengers, who had arrived by air from abroad, were kept under surveillance for the requisite period, as there were several cases of Smallpox in the area where they had embarked.

Table 17 gives the statistics relative to Vaccination, as recorded by the General Practitioners.

TABLE 17

*Vaccinated:*

Under 6 months ... ..	236
Between the ages of 6 months and 1 year of age	167
Between the ages of 1 and 2 years ... ..	53
Between the ages of 2 and 5 years ... ..	39
Between the ages of 5 and 15 years ... ..	59
Over 15 years ... ..	81

*Re-Vaccinated:*

Under 1 year of age ... ..	—
Between the ages of 1 and 2 years ... ..	—
Between the ages of 2 and 5 years ... ..	10
Between the ages of 5 and 15 years ... ..	49
Over 15 years ... ..	111

(i) **Tuberculosis.**

During the year it was considered advisable to reduce the Establishment of Health Visitors by the equivalent of one, and, in lieu to appoint one whole-time Tuberculosis Visitor for duties on the Harold Hill Estate. For the remainder of Romford we have the equivalent of 1.3 Tuberculosis Visitors.

The final results of the Romford Survey by Mass Radiography undertaken in 1953 are shown below:—

Total number of miniature films taken ... ..	<del>732</del> 433 2
Total number of large films taken ... ..	360
Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis found ... ..	8
Inactive Pulmonary Tuberculosis found ... ..	107
Conditions other than Pulmonary Tuberculosis found ...	54

During the latter part of the year, a scheme was initiated by the Essex County Council, whereby B.C.G. Vaccination was offered, with parental consent, to children at the age of 13 years, with the object of giving some protection against Tuberculosis before leaving school, and before entering the age period 15—25 years, which has the highest susceptibility to contraction of this infection. The selection of children of this age has the further advantage that an opportunity is provided for observation, before the children leave school.

It is known that a slight infection with the germ of Tuberculosis does not always cause the disease, and that in the majority of cases no signs or symptoms are experienced. Following this infection, however, a greater resistance to any subsequent attack of the disease is developed. Many people have, without knowing it, already had this infection, and have so developed a natural resistance, but some have not. It is possible to distinguish between those who have, and those who have not, by a simple skin test. For those who have not had the infection, it is possible to induce a similar kind of resistance by the injection of the vaccine, B.C.G. This vaccine is not harmful to health, and local reactions which follow its use are seldom severe.

Regarding notifications, it is interesting to note that the new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis have diminished by 13, and the Deaths are fewer by 9.

After considerable delay, we have at last been able to obtain the services of an Occupational Therapist, whom we share with the Ilford Area. It was felt that many cases of Tuberculosis confined to their homes tend to become introspective, morbid, and depressed, and, therefore, great benefit would accrue both mentally and physically, if they were engaged in useful work. Hence, the appointment. Equipment and materials are provided, the latter being paid for by the patients, but the patients are at liberty to sell the articles which they make, and retain the proceeds.

(j) **Whooping Cough.**

Altogether, 101 cases were notified. For the most part, they occurred in the earlier part of the year. Throughout the year, 1,900 children received immunisation injections.

(ii) **Non-Notifiable**

Very few infectious diseases now come under this heading. The prevalence of these is set out below, and the figures are compiled from the school returns. It will be appreciated, however, that being non-notifiable the number of cases occurring amongst those who are either under or above school age is unknown, and we can only judge from those of school age whether an epidemic exists.

TABLE 18

Chickenpox ...	...	...	915
Mumps ...	...	...	658

**6.—SUPPLEMENTARY.**

(i) **Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948.**

It was not found necessary to take any action under this Section of the National Assistance Act. Several investigations were made, when it was found possible, by other means, to get a satisfactory solution.

TABLE 19  
MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Month	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Paratyphoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Measles	Meningo- coccal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Polio- myelitis Paralytic	Polio- myelitis Non- Paralytic	Whooping Cough	Infective Hepatitis	Food Poisoning	Tuberculosis		Total
																Resp.	Non- Resp.	
January	12	—	—	15	2	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	5	7	7	6	1	60
February	8	—	—	2	5	45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	8	3	—	82
March	25	—	—	2	9	46	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	6	4	7	1	104
April	13	—	—	1	3	12	2	2	1	—	1	1	14	5	4	9	—	68
May	17	—	1	1	3	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	12	2	4	11	1	60
June	11	—	—	2	5	3	1	3	1	—	—	—	25	6	4	7	—	68
July	21	—	—	1	1	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	12	8	4	7	—	60
August	6	—	—	—	—	2	1	8	—	—	—	—	11	5	5	3	—	41
September	8	—	—	1	1	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	7	5	6	4	—	40
October	13	—	—	1	4	—	—	6	—	1	—	—	9	2	1	1	—	38
November	10	—	—	—	5	—	—	59	—	—	—	—	5	3	3	3	2	90
December	12	—	—	—	14	—	3	116	—	—	—	1	—	3	4	7	4	164
Total	156	—	1	26	52	121	13	206	2	1	1	2	101	62	54	68	9	875

TABLE 20  
DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, DIVIDED INTO AGE GROUPS

Disease	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	Total
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	1	3	7	15	16	99	10	2	2	1	—	—	156
Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paratyphoid Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	21	3	..	..	26
Pneumonia .. .. .	2	5	2	4	2	11	3	2	6	4	8	3	52
Dysentery .. .. .	6	8	17	10	4	42	13	1	13	5	2	..	121
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	3	3	3	13
Measles .. .. .	5	33	22	18	14	111	1	..	2	..	..	..	206
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Poliomyelitis Paralytic .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic .. .. .	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Whooping Cough .. .. .	7	10	14	17	19	31	..	1	1	..	1	..	101
Infective Hepatitis .. .. .	..	..	..	1	1	32	12	6	6	2	2	..	62
Food Poisoning .. .. .	3	3	4	3	3	13	5	3	9	7	1	..	54
Total .. .. .	27	63	66	69	59	339	44	17	66	25	17	6	798

TABLE 21.  
 NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)  
 DURING YEAR 1954, and HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	156	9	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever .. .. .	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	26	4	—
Pneumonia .. .. .	52	41	25
Dysentery .. .. .	121	3	—
Erysipelas .. .. .	13	1	—
Measles .. .. .	206	5	—
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	2	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis Paralytic .. .. .	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic .. .. .	2	2	—
Whooping Cough .. .. .	101	14	—
Infective Hepatitis .. .. .	62	3	—
Food Poisoning .. .. .	54	5	—
Total .. .. .	798	91	28

TABLE 22  
TUBERCULOSIS : NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1954

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 .. .. .	4	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 .. .. .	4	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
15 .. .. .	11	7	1	1	—	2	—	—
25 .. .. .	9	11	—	2	—	2	—	—
35 .. .. .	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 .. .. .	2	1	—	—	5	—	—	—
55 .. .. .	4	—	1	—	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
Total ..	40	28	4	5	10	5	—	—



